

Applicant : ChangSheng Liu et al.
Serial No. : 09/757,632
Filed : January 11, 2001
Page : 9 of 10

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the telephone interview with the Examiner on March 18, 2005.

Claims 1-22 are currently pending. As proposed in the telephone interview, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-7, 11-13, 16-18, and 20-22 by replacing the phrase language "without rinsing the capillary with hydroxide" with "without rinsing the capillary with a cleaning solution." Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 1, lines 29-31 of the Specification as originally filed. Further, pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have added the word "lubricating" at line 5 of claim 11. No new matter has been introduced by the above amendments.

Claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 11-15 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 11 to obviate these two rejections.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hu et al., J. Chrom. A, 717, (1995), pgs. 33-39 ("Hu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,997,536 to Ohms et al. ("Ohms").

Hu discloses characterizing lipoprotein by a capillary zone electrophoresis, in which the capillary is rinsed with NaOH between two runs. Ohms discloses achieving reproducible capillary electrophoresis by rinsing the capillary with an oxidizing agent or a reducing agent, e.g., dithioerythritol. No combination of Hu and Ohms discloses or suggests conducting capillary zone electrophoresis without rinsing the capillary with a cleaning solution between two runs, as recited by amended claims 1-22.

Claims 1-22 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenndler et al., J. Chrom., 545, (1991), pgs. 397-402 ("Kenndler") in view of Ohms.

Similar to Hu, Kendlar discloses rinsing a capillary with NaOH between two electrophoresis runs. Thus, no combination of Kendlar and Ohms discloses or suggests conducting electrophoresis without rinsing the capillary with a cleaning solution, as recited by amended claims 1-22.

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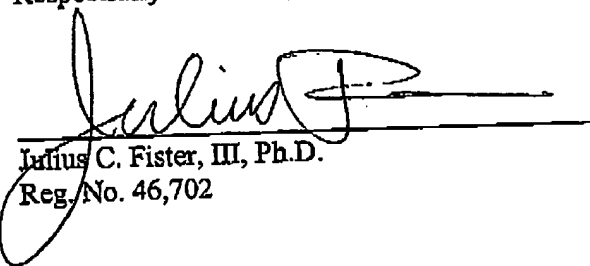
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Page : 10 of 10

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited in this case, taken individually or in combination, neither discloses nor suggests the present invention. Thus, the claims as presented and amended herein are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

A fee for an extension of time is authorized on the accompanying fee sheet. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney's Docket No.: 16969-020001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 18, 2005


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